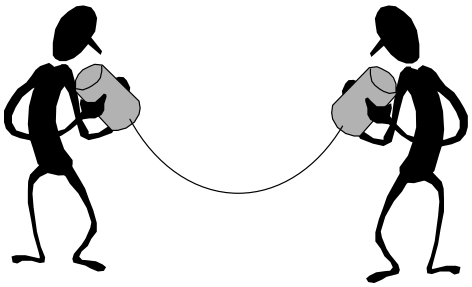
The Division of Disability and Aging Services and
Vermont Communication Task Force
Presents

Making Communication Happen III



A one-day conference to provide practical and in-depth information to people who support adults and transition age youth to communicate

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Killington Grand Resort Hotel & Conference Center, Killington, VT

Registration Deadline: May 1st

Topics to be explored:

- ➔ Making communication boards/books from scratch
- ➔ Developing meaningful communication goals
- ➔ Practical ideas for supporting adults to learn to read and write
- ➔ Maximizing our potential as communicators: supporting all modes of communication
- ➔ Supporting speech: how can you help someone be better understood
- ➔ Pain: how to recognize when it hurts
- ➔ Supporting people who have hearing loss and cognitive disabilities
- ➔ Communication device vendor displays and demonstrations

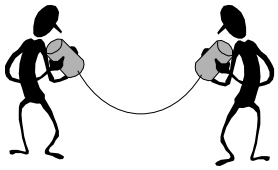
and <u>lots</u> more!

SPONSORS:

Vermont DAIL/Division of Disability and Aging Services
Vermont Assistive Technology Program
Center on Disability and Community Inclusion
Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Vermont Communication Task Force

Agenda

8:00 – 9:00	Registration – Check-in and Refreshments Vendor and exhibitor tables open
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:30 – 9:45	Break
9:45 – 11:00	Workshops – Session A
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:30	Workshops – Session B
12:30 – 2:00	Buffet Luncheon Raffle drawing
2:00 – 3:13	Workshops – Session C
3:15 – 3:30	Evaluations – Certificate of Attendance – Adjourn
3:30 – 5:00	Post-Conference Session (see below for details)



Highlights

Opening Remarks:

Tracy Thresher, consultant and self-advocate from central Vermont, will start the day with a few words about his experiences as a person who grew up with limited communication and how his life changed once he had the opportunity and support to express his thoughts and ideas.

Vendors & Non-Profit Displays

There will be opportunities to talk to communication device manufacturer representatives who serve Vermont. Participants can meet with these vendors and check out communication devices.

There will be sign-up times for brief individual consultations. There will also be tables with information and displays from advocacy organizations and other non-profit groups.

Vermont Assistive Technology Program and DDAS Resource Tables

The Vermont AT Program will have a display of basic assistive technology (AT) devices for communication and catalogues about where to find the items as well as other AT resources.

There will also be a table with a selection of books and other communication resources available from the Division of Disability and Aging Services lending library.

Workshops – Session A

9:45 – 11:30

A1. Supporting Speech: How Can You Help Someone be Better Understood

Presenter: *Mary Alice Favro, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist, UVM*

Why do some folks have such difficulty speaking? What can you do to help? Learn some of the diagnosis/reasons speech may be challenging from a speech language pathologist's perspective. We will talk about how to support someone to use their speech more effectively…and/or help them communicate more effectively to be better understood by others.

A2. Maximizing Our Potential as Communicators: Supporting AAC Users to Use All their Modes of Communication Effectively

Presenters: *Pascal Cheng, Communication Resource Specialist; Harvey Lavoy, Communication Resource Specialist; Chris Osborne-Hull, Self-Advocate; Tracy Thresher, Consultant*

Many people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) use a variety of ways to communicate. Each mode, whether it be speech, gestures, sign language, facial expression, communication boards and electronic devices, can be effective in certain situations and settings. It is sometimes difficult for communication partners to figure out which mode to use when. Several individuals who use AAC will share their experiences with using different modes of communication. A decision-making process will be shared on how to integrate multiple modes of communication for a person in their daily life.

A3. Wait, Wait…Don't Tell Me!: Task Supports at Home and at Work

Presenter: *Maureen Nevers, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist, UVM, Center for Disability and Community Inclusion*

Break away from "talk, talk, talk" and expand your use of visual, structural and environmental adaptations to share information. Come and check out real-life examples of how to build these supports into activities to increase independence and success. Guaranteed to be ready to apply the next day!

A4. Hearing Loss and Cognitive Disability

Presenter: *Carrie Foster, Director, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Agency of Human Services*

This presentation discusses how to work with individuals who have a cognitive disability and who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or Deaf Blind. Topics include communication methods, level of hearing loss and its impact on cognitive development, assistive devices and other resources. The presenter welcomes interaction for discussion. Role plays are included as well to increase better understanding in communication at various levels.

A5. Pain: How to Recognize when it Hurts

Presenter: *Deb O'Rourke, Ph.D., P.T., Physical Therapist, UVM*

Pain is helpful in alerting us about injury and illness, but when unrecognized or poorly managed it causes suffering and reduces health and quality of life. Research shows pain is common in people with developmental disabilities and is often underestimated and undertreated. In this workshop, we will review this research and introduce new tools developed to identify and measure pain in people who are unable to self-report.

A6. Vendor Panel Presentation on AAC Devices

Presenters: *David Kay, M.Ed., OTR, Augmentative Communication Specialist, Prentke Romich Company; Greg Weisel, Sales Consultant, DynaVox*

This panel presentation with vendors of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices will provide the opportunity to learn about high technology communication devices, what's available, how to use them and with whom. Learn about the relationship between high tech devices and other communication supports.

Workshops – Session B

11:45 – 12:30

B1. What's the Difference?: Visual Schedules, Choice Boards and Conversation Boards

Presenter: *Mary Alice Favro, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist, UVM*

There are so many ways to use pictures to communicate, it can be confusing. Come and see what the differences are between several different types and when to use each depending on the consumer, the situation and the goal they want to achieve. You can begin to plan some of these visual supports in this session.

B2. Practical Ideas for Reading and Writing

Presenters: *Pascal Cheng, Communication Resource Specialist*

This session will focus on sharing ideas for providing meaningful reading and writing activities and experiences for adults and transition age youth in community settings. The information will be applicable for individuals of all levels of literacy development. The presenter will discuss methods of informal assessment, a process of setting goals for literacy learning, methods of making reading materials accessible through the use of graphics and ideas for designing instructional activities within both individual and group situations.

B3. Creating a Communication Resource Library in your Agency

Presenters: *Jessica Benware, Team Leader, Lincoln Street Incorporated; Abbey Carl, Team Leader, Lincoln Street Incorporated; Linda V. Gould, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist; Jeff Nunemaker, Communication Skills Facilitator, United Counseling Services*

Individuals with complex communication needs are more limited in their modes of communication. It is important for agencies to have the tools necessary to enhance the communication of all the individuals they support. This workshop will provide information on

how to create a communication resource library within your agency; specifically, a list of functional low-tech through high-tech tools that are appropriate for a variety of individuals, how to fund them, how to organize/store them and how to identify which strategy/device is most appropriate for specific individuals. We will also discuss how to find and develop language supports (social scripts, vocabulary lists, Internet resources, etc.) necessary for successfully implementing the strategies and devices available in the library.

B4. Visual Scene Displays: A Functional Approach to AAC

Presenters: *Phyl T. Macomber, Assistive Technology Specialist; Keith Woodbury, SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist, Tobii Assistive Technology, Inc.*

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems have traditionally used single symbol and grid-based symbol displays for depicting vocabulary and promoting language development. An alternative approach is emerging known as Visual Scene Displays (VSDs). Research shows that VSDs offer more immediate success for emerging communicators and for many people with speech-language limitations due to congenital or acquired disabilities. This presentation will outline a process for introducing symbolic communication using VSD's. Displays will be presented along with steps for transitioning from low technology to static and dynamic display speech generating devices. A hybrid approach that combines visual scene displays with grid-based vocabulary will also be presented.

B5. How to Get your Voice and Use It!

Presenters: *Max Barrows, Outreach Worker, Green Mountain Self-Advocates; Tracy Thresher, Consultant*

To have a voice is most important and never to stop using it. Tracy and Max will discuss how to support someone who doesn't speak or doesn't speak clearly to fully participate in self-advocacy and life's events.

Workshops – Session C

2:00 – 3:15

C1. From Start to Finish: Funding AAC Devices

Presenter: *Mary Alice Favro, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist, UVM*

Learn a step-by-step process to determine the appropriate device for an individual and actually get it funded. We will cover how to obtain an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) evaluation, prepare for and use a device on a trial basis and prepare materials for a funding request.

C2. Developing Meaningful Communication Goals

Presenters: *Pascal Cheng, Communication Resource Specialist; Beth Sightler, Senior Services Coordinator/Training Coordinator, Champlain Community Services*

This session will share ideas and guidelines for developing meaningful communication goals and plans from a quality of life perspective. Through small group activities, participants will have an opportunity to work on goals for someone they work with and get feedback from others.

C3. Making Communication Boards/Books from Scratch

Presenter: *Linda V. Gould, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist*

This workshop will offer practical ideas for creating communication boards and books with readily available materials. Who says you can't make communication supports without BoardMaker software!

C4. Light Tech – Hands-on Practical Strategies

Presenters: *Eileen Haddon, Assistive Technology Practitioner, Vermont Assistive Technology Program; Phyl Macomber, Assistive Technology Specialist*

Light tech communication supports can be easy and inexpensive to create. The trick is how to best integrate and use these practical supports together. We'll show you some creative light tech ideas and show you how to combine them for an effective communication system.

C5. Finding your Voice in the Workplace

Presenters: *Dale Hindmarsh, Research Associate, UVM, Center on Disability and Community Inclusion*

A panel presentation by people with disabilities who have been successfully employed along with members of their support teams. The panel will explore issues of communication in the workplace with co-workers, supervisors, customers and employment support staff. Natural supports and strategies for facilitating communication in the workplace that is not dependent on a staff person acting as "interpreter" will be presented by people who are making such efforts work effectively in their communities. Participants will be encouraged to explore the ways in which these methodologies might be adapted to their own concerns or workplace.

Post-Workshop Session

3:30 – 5:00

D.1. Speaking Dynamically Pro Communication Board Sharing Session

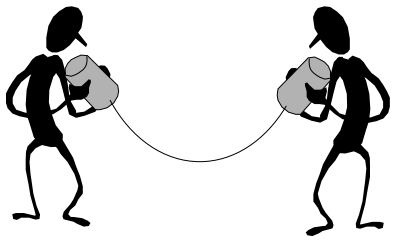
Presenters: *Phyl T. Macomber, Assistive Technology Specialist*

Speaking Dynamically Pro (SDPro) is a dynamic communication software for individuals with significant speech, language, or learning disabilities. It allows you to create customized "talking" communication boards and interactive activities as well as printed materials. This sharing session was created to provide an opportunity to:

(1) have participants come with SDPro boards to share with others; and
(2) have participants obtain samples of others boards.

The format for this will be via memory sticks (flash drives). Each participant interested in sharing or receiving SDPro boards is required to attend the session with their own personal memory stick labeled with their name. All SDPro boards to be shared by a participant must be placed on a memory stick prior to attending the session.

There is no additional cost to attend this session.



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Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Killington Grand Resort Hotel and Conference Center, Killington, VT

REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline: May 1, 2008

Please PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Daytime Phone #: _____

Organization: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

_____

Special Needs?_____ Vegetarian meal preferred?_____

Sign Language Interpreters available **by request** no later than **April 30th**. Contact Lanora Preedom at 241-2648 or e-mail: lanora.preedom@ahs.state.vt.us

Registration Fee: $60 (includes lunch). **$25 for people with disabilities and family members**
Payable to: *Making Communication Happen III* **DEADLINE:** May 1, 2008

Method of payment – For all options, include registration form for each participant:

[ ] Check enclosed.

[ ] Check coming from organization's Business Office. Fax this form to hold your place.
Business Offices: Send check with copy of registration form(s) by May 1st.

[ ] State Employees ONLY – to pay by Interdepartmental Journal:

1) Mail or fax a copy of registration form(s) for each participant. Please send these immediately upon receipt; do not wait for Journal.
2) Make one transfer for all registrants to our Business Unit #03460.
3) Reference "Making Communication Happen III" on the Journal; do not mix with other payments.
4) Once transfer has been made, send an e-mail to amy.connelley@ahs.state.vt.us identifying the names of the registrants and the total amount being transferred.

MAIL registration and payment by May 1st to:

Division of Disability and Aging Services/DAIL
Attn: Lanora Preedom
103 South Main Street, Weeks Building
Waterbury VT 05671-1601

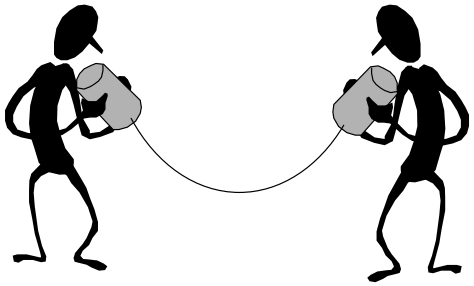
FAX registration to: 802-241-4224 – Registration forms may be faxed to hold your place while waiting for payment to be processed. Payment must be received by **May 1, 2008**.

QUESTIONS? Contact Lanora Preedom at 802-241-2648 or lanora.preedom@ahs.state.vt.us

AIL 80
Division of Disability and Aging Services
Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

THE VERMONT DIVISION OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
AND THE VERMONT COMMUNICATION TASK FORCE PRESENTS

Making Communication Happen III



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Killington, Vermont

REGISTER BY MAY 1, 2008